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## Letter dated 11 November 2008 from the Permanent Representative of Burkina Faso to the United Nations addressed to the President of the Security Council

I have the honour to transmit herewith the press statement on the fourth meeting of the Permanent Consultative Framework of the Ouagadougou Political Agreement, held on 10 November 2008, under the auspices of the Facilitator of the Ivorian open direct dialogue, His Excellency Mr. Blaise Compaoré, President of Burkina Faso and Chairman of the Economic Community of West African States (see annex).

I would be grateful if the present letter and its annex were circulated as a document of the Security Council.

(*Signed*) Michel **Kafando**
Ambassador
Permanent Representative

08-59979 (E) 181108 181108

## Annex to the letter dated 11 November 2008 from the Permanent Representative of Burkina Faso to the United Nations addressed to the President of the Security Council

[Original: French]

### Direct inter-Ivorian dialogue

### Fourth meeting of the Permanent Consultative Framework

**Ouagadougou, 10 November 2008**

### Press statement

On the invitation of His Excellency Mr. Blaise Compaoré, President of Burkina Faso, Chairman-in-office of the Conference of Heads of State and Government of the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS) and Facilitator of the direct inter-Ivorian dialogue, the fourth meeting of the Permanent Consultative Framework of the Ouagadougou Political Agreement was held in Ouagadougou on Monday, 10 November 2008.

In addition to the Facilitator, the meeting was attended by the following, all members of the Permanent Consultative Framework:

- His Excellency Mr. Laurent Gbagbo, President of the Republic of Côte d'Ivoire;
- Mr. Guillaume Kigbafori Soro, Prime Minister;
- Mr. Henri Konan Bédié, President of PDCI-RDA (Partie Démocratique de Côte d'Ivoire-Rassemblement Démocrate Africain);
- Mr. Alassane Dramane Ouattara, President of RDR (Rassemblement des Républicains).

In his introductory address, the Facilitator thanked the members of the Permanent Consultative Framework for accepting his invitation to attend. He congratulated them on the significant progress achieved in the peace process thanks to their combined efforts. He was gratified to note that Côte d'Ivoire had begun moving forward again in spite of economic and financial difficulties. After drawing attention to the legitimate expectations of the Ivorian people and the international community, he recalled the great responsibility of the political stakeholders in Côte d'Ivoire to complete the crisis recovery process and urged them to make every effort to endure the success of the operations to identify and register voters with a view to holding credible elections in the country.

Following the adoption of the agenda, the members of the Permanent Consultative Framework proceeded to evaluate the implementation of the Ouagadougou Political Agreement and its Supplementary Agreements, in particular, identification and voter registration operations, secure its arrangements for the electoral process and the financing of the crisis recovery process.

The members of the Permanent Consultative Framework welcomed the results of the exceptional mobile court hearings which had ended on 15 May 2008 and had enabled a significant number of Ivorian citizens to obtain declaratory judgements in

lieu of birth certificates. They also welcomed the holding of additional mobile court hearings throughout the national territory to give another chance to those who had still not been heard and took note of the provisional outcome of the operation.

The Framework further noted the launching and status of operations to reconstitute lost or destroyed civil registers and called on the Ivorian Government to take all appropriate steps to complete the exercise before the end of the registration period so that applicants whose names were contained in those civil registers could be identified and placed on voter lists.

The Chairman of the Independent Electoral Commission, Mr. Robert Beugré Mambé, briefed Framework members on developments in the electoral process. They commended the efforts made by the Commission and the Government to launch the identification and voter registration operations. Congratulating them on the work already done, the Framework noted, however, that the official date of the presidential election could not be 30 November 2008.

The Framework urged the Chairman of the Independent Electoral Commission to establish as soon as possible an exact timetable for identification and voter registration. The timetable should be published before 31 December 2008 with a view to setting the new date for the first round of the presidential election.

The Framework mandated the Prime Minister and the Chairman of the Independent Electoral Commission to convene as a matter of urgency all the national bodies concerned in order to consider and approve the timetable.

The Framework requests the Ivorian Government to provide the bodies responsible for identification and voter registration operations with adequate financial resources in sufficient time for them to be able to keep to the approved timetable. Accordingly, it invites the Government to establish a disbursement schedule in line with the timetable for the actions proposed by the Commission.

The Framework encourages the Commission and all the other stakeholders to coordinate their efforts more closely with a view to holding timely, free, open, transparent and democratic elections in an atmosphere of calm.

In addition, Framework members considered the comprehensive plan on measures to ensure the security of the electoral process presented by Colonel Major Nicolas Kouakou, Commander of the integrated command centre. While commending the security arrangements set out in the comprehensive plan, which they approved, they invited the Government, Defence and Security Forces (FDS), Armed Forces of the Forces Nouvelles (FAFN) and the Impartial Forces to give the necessary support to the integrated command centre so as to make it operational and enable it to perform its mission.

On questions relating to the Defence and Security Forces, the Framework noted with regret the difficulties encountered in carrying out operations to regroup and demobilize former FAFN combatants and to disarm and dismantle the militia groups.

The Framework encourages the Facilitator to persevere in his efforts to seek appropriate solutions with the signatories of the Ouagadougou Political Agreement in regard to outstanding military issues.

Lastly, the Framework carefully considered the question of the financing of the crisis recovery process, which was the main subject of the fourth meeting of the African Economic Community held in Ouagadougou on 10 July 2008. It heard Mr. Charles Koffi Diby, Minister of the Economy and Finance, who gave a status report on the financing of operations under the Ouagadougou Political Agreement.

The Framework recommended that the Minister of the Economy and Finance, notwithstanding the difficult international and national context, should provide for the financial needs of the national bodies responsible for identification and voter registration operations.

The Framework appeals to the international community to help Côte d'Ivoire to become eligible for the Poverty Reduction and Growth Facility (PRGF) and decision point status for debt relief by 31 December 2008.

It renews its appeal to the international community to continue to support Côte d'Ivoire in securing financing for the other urgent crisis-recovery operations. It encourages the Government and the technical and financial partners to make the necessary funds available to carry out the various programmes, in particular the most urgent ones already under way.

Before the meeting was adjourned, the members of the Permanent Consultative Framework again expressed their gratitude to His Excellency Mr. Blaise Compaoré, President of Burkina Faso and Facilitator of the direct inter-Ivorian dialogue, for his unwavering support for the peace process in Côte d'Ivoire and decided to hold their next meeting in January 2009.